IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method comprising:

parameterizing a routing policy; and

applying the parameterized-routing policy to a route.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, and wherein parameterizing comprises assigning parameters to at least some of the policy statements and refraining from assigning parameters to at least some other of the policy statements to generate the parameterized-routing policy.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein parameterizing comprises:

for the routing policy, generating at least one parameterized-policy statement having an associated set of parameters for one of either a customer or customer class.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, each policy statement having one or more differing values associated with one or more customers or customer classes, and

wherein parameterizing comprises assigning parameters to the one or more differing values of the policy statements.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein parameterizing further comprises:

identifying one or more common blocks of policy statements within the policy;

assigning sets of parameters to elements of the one or more common blocks; and

storing the parameter sets in a parameter table, the table associating each set of parameters with either the customer or the customer class.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein parameterizing further comprises reusing the common blocks in the parameterized-routing policy.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein parameterizing further comprises reusing the common blocks in another parameterized-routing policy.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein reusing the common blocks comprises calling a parameterized policy with parameters from the parameter table based on one of either the customer or the customer class.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein applying further comprises determining at least one of whether to accept the route, whether to modify attributes of the route, or whether to send the route or the modified route to peer routing systems.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein when the route is accepted or modified, applying further comprises installing the accepted or the modified route.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising modifying attributes of the route, wherein modifying comprises at least one of changing an attribute, creating a new attribute, or deleting an attribute of the route.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        identifying one or more common blocks of policy statements, the common blocks being common to more than one routing policy;
        generating a commonized routing policy from the one or more common blocks; and
        reusing the commonized routing policy by calling the commonized routing policy from within the more than one routing policy which uses the common blocks.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein parameterizing comprises assigning parameters to at least some of the policy statements of the common blocks to parameterize at least some policy statements in the common blocks.

14. (Original) A routing apparatus comprising:

a processor to parameterize a routing policy and apply the parameterized-routing policy to a received route; and

a storage element to store parameters associated with the parameterized-routing policy.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, and wherein the processor is to assign parameters to at least some of the policy statements and is to refrain from assigning parameters to at least some other of the policy statements to generate the parameterized-routing policy,

and wherein the processor is to store the assigned parameters in the storage element.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is to generate at least one parameterized-policy statement having an associated set of parameters for one of either a customer or customer class.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, each policy statement having one or more differing values associated with one or more customers or customer classes, and

wherein the processor is to assign parameters to the one or more differing values of the policy statements.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is to

identify one or more common blocks of policy statements within the policy;

assign sets of parameters to elements of the one or more common blocks; and

store the parameter sets in a parameter table of the storage element, the table associating

each set of parameters with either the customer or the customer class.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the processor is to reuse the common

blocks in the parameterized-routing policy.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the processor is to reuse the common

blocks in another parameterized-routing policy.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the processor, as part of reusing, is to

call a parameterized policy with parameters from the parameter table based on one of either the

customer or the customer class.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the processor is to determine at least

one of whether to accept the route, whether to modify attributes of the route, or whether to send

the route or the modified route to peer routing systems.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein when the route is accepted or modified,

the processor is to install the accepted or the modified route on a router.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the processor is to modify attributes of

the route by at least one of changing an attribute, creating a new attribute, or deleting an attribute

of the route.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is to further:

identify one or more common blocks of policy statements, the common blocks being common to more than one routing policy;

generate a commonized routing policy from the one or more common blocks; and

reuse the commonized routing policy by calling the commonized routing policy from within the more than one routing policy which uses the common blocks.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processor is to assign parameters to at least some of the policy statements of the common blocks to parameterize the at least some policy statements in the common blocks.

27. (Original) A system comprising:

means for parameterizing a routing policy;

means for applying the parameterized-routing policy to a received route; and

means for storing parameters associated with the parameterized-routing policy.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, and wherein the means for parameterizing is to assign parameters to at least some of the policy statements and is to refrain from assigning parameters to at least some other of the policy statements to generate the parameterized-routing policy,

and wherein the means for parameterizing is to store the assigned parameters in the means for storing.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the means for parameterizing is to generate at least one parameterized-policy statement having an associated set of parameters for one of either a customer or customer class.

30. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, each policy statement having one or more differing values associated with one or more customers or customer classes, and

wherein the means for parameterizing is to assign parameters to the one or more differing values of the policy statements.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the means for parameterizing is to further:

identify one or more common blocks of policy statements within the policy;

assign sets of parameters to elements of the one or more common blocks; and

store the parameter sets in a parameter table of the storage element, the table associating each set of parameters with either the customer or the customer class.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the means for applying is to reuse the common blocks in the parameterized-routing policy.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the means for applying is to reuse the common blocks in another parameterized-routing policy.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the means for applying, as part of reusing, is to call a parameterized policy with parameters from the parameter table based on one of either the customer or the customer class.

35. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the means for applying is to determine at least one of whether to accept the route, whether to modify attributes of the route, or whether to send the route or the modified route to peer routing systems.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein when the route is accepted or modified,

the means for applying is to install the accepted or the modified route on a router.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein the means for applying is to modify attributes of the route by at least one of changing an attribute, creating a new attribute, or deleting an attribute of the route.

38. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the means for parameterizing is to:

identify one or more common blocks of policy statements, the common blocks being common to more than one routing policy; and

generate a commonized routing policy from the one or more common blocks, and

wherein the means for applying is to reuse the commonized routing policy by calling the commonized routing policy from within the more than one routing policy which uses the common blocks.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38 wherein the means for parameterizing is to assign parameters to at least some of the policy statements of the common blocks to parameterize the at least some policy statements in the common blocks.

40. (Original) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, cause said processors to perform operations comprising:

parameterizing a routing policy; and

applying the parameterized-routing policy to a route.

41. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations, wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, and wherein parameterizing comprises assigning parameters to at least some of the policy statements and refraining from assigning parameters to at least some other of the policy statements to generate the parameterized-routing policy.

42. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations, wherein parameterizing comprises: for the routing policy, generating at least one parameterized-policy statement having an associated set of parameters for one of either a customer or customer class.

43. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations wherein the routing policy comprises a plurality of policy statements, each policy statement having one or more differing values associated with one or more customers or customer classes.

44. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 43 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations wherein parameterizing comprises assigning parameters to the one or more differing values of the policy statements.

45. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations comprising:

identifying one or more common blocks of policy statements within the policy;

assigning sets of parameters to elements of the one or more common blocks; and

storing the parameter sets in a parameter table, the table associating each set of parameters with either the customer or the customer class.

46. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations comprising reusing the common blocks in the parameterized-routing policy.

47. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations comprising reusing the common blocks in another parameterized-routing policy.

48. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations comprising reusing the common blocks comprises calling a parameterized policy with parameters from the parameter table based on one of either the customer or the customer class.

49. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 45 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations comprising applying further comprises determining at least one of whether to accept the route, whether to modify attributes of the route, or whether to send the route or the modified route to peer routing systems.

50. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of said processors cause said processors to perform operations further comprising:

identifying one or more common blocks of policy statements, the common blocks being common to more than one routing policy;

generating a commonized routing policy from the one or more common blocks; and

reusing the commonized routing policy by calling the commonized routing policy from within the more than one routing policy which uses the common blocks.

51-132. (Canceled)